

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4627

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON 21

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 09856

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, AO, US

SUBJ: ANGOLA DRAWS INCREASED ROK PRESS ATTENTION

SUMMARY: DEBATE IN U.S. OVER ANGOLA HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN ROK PRESS, PARTICULARLY EDITORIALS, WITH PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON IMPORTANCE OF U.S. RESPONSE TO SOVIET EFFORT TO TIP AFRICAN BALANCE OF GREAT POWER INFLUENCE. RECENT U.S. SENATE ACTIONS HAVE BEGUN TO STIR CONCERN AMONG SMALL CIRCLE OF WELL-INFORMED ABOUT RESURGENCE OF U.S. ISOLATIONISM, BUT REACTION LIMITED THUS FAR. END SUMMARY.

1. MAJOR KOREAN PAPERS HAVE GIVEN FRONT PAGE AND EXTENSIVE EDITORIAL COVERAGE, PARTICULARLY IN PAST WEEK, TO ANGOLAN SITUATION AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S. THEMES APPEARING MOST FREQUENTLY IN EDITORIALS ARE IMPORTANCE OF U.S. RESISTANCE TO SOVIET EFFORT TO UNILATERALLY CHANGE BALANCE OF GREAT POWER INFLUENCE IN AFRICA. USG POSITION HAS BEEN
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UNIVERSALLY ECHOED IN ROK EDITORIAL COMMENT AND EDITORIALS

INCREASED IN NUMBER FOLLOWING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S
DECEMBER 12 STATEMENT ON ANGOLA. SECOND THEME HAS BEEN
ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF NORTH KOREA, BOTH THROUGH MILITARY
ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO ZAIRE, WHICH WIRE SERVICES SAY IS
BACKING CHINESE AND U.S.-SUPPORTED FNLA, AND THROUGH DIPLOMATIC
RECOGNITION OF SOVIET-BACKED MPLA. SOME EDITORIALS, E.G.
SEMI-OFFICIAL KYONGHYANG SHINMUN, CONDEMN "INVOLVEMENT OF
NORTH KOREAN TROOPS IN ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR" AS EXTENSION OF
NORTH KOREAN POLICY OF "SENDING TROOPS, SUPPLYING ARMS AND
INFILTRATING GUERILLAS INTO WORLD TROUBLE SPOTS."
ADDITIONAL CONCERN EXPRESSED IN EDITORIALS IS THAT SOVIET
ACTIONS IN ANGOLA WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT DETENTE, AND SALT II
NEGOTIATIONS IN PARTICULAR.

COMMENT: STRESS IN SEMI-OFFICIAL PAPER ON NORTH KOREAN
INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA SERVES DUAL PURPOSE OF REMINDING ROK
CITIZENRY OF AGGRESSIVE AND DISRUPTIVE DPRK TENDENCIES
AS WELL AS REMINDING DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IN SEOUL
THAT NORTH KOREANS SUPPORT GUERILLAS AND OTHER NASTY PEOPLE.
END COMMENT.

2. MID-LEVEL MOFA OFFICIALS IN BOTH AFRICAN AND AMERICAN
AFFAIRS BUREAUS HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING ANGOLA-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS
CLOSELY AND HAVE KEPT SENIOR OFFICIALS INFORMED, FREQUENTLY
USING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY EMBASSY DRAWING ON RECENT
TELEGRAMS FROM DEPARTMENT. SENIOR OFFICIALS HAVE NOT AS YET
EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT RECENT ANGOLA-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS,
HOWEVER, EITHER PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY, DESPITE RECOGNITION
AT MOFA WORKING LEVEL, EXPRESSED TO EMBOFFS ON TWO OCCASIONS
DECEMBER 22, THAT INABILITY OF U.S. TO COUNTER SOVIET MOVES
IN ANGOLA COULD AGAIN RAISE SPECTRE OF U.S. ISOLATIONISM
WHICH PRESIDENT FORD'S DECEMBER 7 PACIFIC DOCTRINE SPEECH HAD
JUST APPARENTLY LAID TO REST HERE.

3. IN DECEMBER 22 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, YI CHONG-SU,
MOFA WEST AFRICA DIVISION DIRECTOR, SAID ROKG HAD RECEIVED
REPORTS THAT 106 NORTH KOREAN ADVISORS HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN
FROM ZAIRE AND THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAD CRITICISED THIS
NORTH KOREAN ACTION, AND NK RECOGNITION OF MPLA, TO UGANDA
PRESIDENT AMIN AS FURTHER EFFORT TO INTERFERE IN AFRICAN
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AFFAIRS IN DEFIANCE OF OAU POSITION. (WOULD APPRECIATE
ANY LIGHT ADDRESSEES CAN SHED ON THIS SUBJECT IN VIEW OF
POSSIBLE RELEVANCE TO NORTH KOREAN REPUTATION IN AFRICA.)
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